

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 02355 050725Z

17-12

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 050653Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4900

UNCLAS SYDNEY 2355

FOR SCS

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: CDES

SUBJ: DIRECT NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

REF: CA-3677; DEPTS OM JUNE 4, 1973; SYDNEY 1356; SYDNEY 2353

1. LOUTHIAN FAMILY REQUESTED FORWARD FUNDS THROUGH DEPT RATHER THAN THROUGH BANK CHANNELS ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO DESTITUTES AS DISCUSSED IN A-3677 OF APRIL 12, 1972 BECAUSE THERE IS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSMITTING FUNDS TO A DESTITUTE AND TO A CORPSE. THE DUTIES OF THE CONSULAR OFFICER IN THE CASE OF A DESTITUTE ARE MINIMAL, INASMUCH AS THE LIVE INDIVIDUAL CAN GO CHASING AROUND FROM BANK TO BANK TO FIND OUT WHERE HIS MONEY IS AND CAN THEN SIGN FOR IT HIMSELF.

2. THE DUTIES OF A CONSUL OFFICER IN THE CASE OF A DEATH ARE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC AND WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTING FOR ALL FUNDS DISBURSED FROM THE ACCOUNT. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE-IN FACT PROBABLE- THAT THE FAMILY, IN THE SHOCK OF LEARNING OF THE DEATH, WILL TRANSMIT THE FUNDS ADDRESSED TO THE INDIVIDUAL HIMSELF RATHER THAN TO THE CONSULAR POST FOR THE A/C OF THE DECEASED. IT WILL BE APPARENT THAT THESE FUNDS CANNOT BE TOUCHED THROUGH A BANK BECAUSE THE DECEASED CANNOT SIGN FOR THEM. IN AUSTRALIA THE FUNDS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY GO INTO THE ESTATE IN THE HANDS OF

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THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE. THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO

THE FAMILY FOR A DUPLICATE AMOUNT TO BE USED FOR THE
ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF PREPARATION AND SHIPMENT, ETC.

3. IN ADDITION TRANSFER OF FUNDS THROUGH BANK CHANNELS
FREQUENTLY TAKES TEN TO FOURTEEN DAYS COMPLICATING
FINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ONWARD SHIPMENT REMAINS.
HANNAH

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Message Attributes

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